

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 IO-03 ADP-00 RSC-01 /010 R

66660

DRAFTED BY:NEA/RA:TGGRANT PD

APPROVED BY:NEA/RA:RWCHASE

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R 252222Z JUL 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 146492

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE JULY 13, FROM ISLAMABAD
REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 5677

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, PK

SUBJ: NARCOTICS: COMMENTS ON WEST VISIT

REF: ISLAMABAD 5661

1. SUMMARY. WEST VISIT WAS WELCOME STIMULUS TO MISSION
AND GOP THINKING ABOUT OPIUM PRODUCTION PROBLEM. DIS-
CUSSIONS WITH GOP, HOWEVER, ACCENTUATED IMPORTANCE OF
HIGH-LEVEL GOP POLITICAL DECISION ON ERADICATION TIME-
TABLE. REQUEST WASHINGTON VIEWS ON POSSIBILITY OF JOINT
US-PAK PRODUCTION TEAM, IF GOP REACHES SATISFACTORY DE-
CISION ON TIMETABLE. END SUMMARY

2. WE FOUND DR. WEST'S PRESENTATION OF TURKISH EXPERIENCE
VERY STIMULATING TO OUR THINKING ABOUT ATTACKING PRODUCTION
PROBLEM. WE ALSO BELIEVE IT SERVED USEFUL PURPOSE TO PLACE
BEFORE GOP AND NWFP OFFICIALS, DESPITE UNRESPONSIVENESS OF
SOME OF THEM TO IDEA OF EARLY PRODUCTION BAN, DETAILS OF
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TURKISH PROGRAM AND OBSTACLES WHICH GOT OVERCAME TO

MAKE PRODUCTION BAN APPARENT SUCCESS. VISIT ALSO SHED LIGHT ON DIFFICULTIES ORAKZAI FACES IN ATTEMPTING TO RALLY TO HIS CAUSE NWFP OFFICIALS CONCERNED WITH DEVELOPMENT.

3. DISCUSSIONS WITH GOP DURING WEST VISIT FURTHER UNDERLINE IMPORTANCE OF EARLY GOP DECISION AT HIGH POLITICAL LEVEL ON ERADICATION TIMETABLE. GOP HAS REGRETTABLY NOT MOVED TOWARD USG POSITION. (IN FACT ORAKZAI'S IDEA OF THREE-YEAR PHASE-OUT OF PRODUCTION (ISLAMABAD 4881) IS CONSIDERABLY MORE FORWARD-LOOKING THAN POSITION OF COMMITTEE (CRELIPGA) WHICH HAS BEEN ASKED TO PLAN POPPY CONTROL PROGRAM.) POSITION OF QAMARUL ISLAMA AND OTHER BUREAUCRATS CONCERNED WITH OPIUM PRODUCTION IS THAT PRODUCTION AREA HAS TO BE SURVEYED AND PROJECTS PLANNED BEFORE TIMETABLE DECISION CAN BE MADE. SINCE, HOWEVER, THERE CONTINUES TO BE LITTLE EVIDENCE OF ANY ACTIVE GOP PLANNING ON PRODUCTION, PROSPECTS THAT EARLY CONSENSUS ON TIMETABLE FOR ERADICATION WILL EMERGE FROM BUREAUCRACY ARE VERY DIM. IN OUR VIEW, ESSENTIAL FIRST STEP REMAINS DECISION AT PRESIDENTIAL LEVEL ON MOST RAPID ERADICATION TIMETABLE THAT IS FEASIBLE POLITICALLY. DETAILED PLANNING WILL NOT PRECEDE THAT DECISION BUT WILL FOLLOW OUT OF IT.

4. WRAP-UP NARCOTICS TASK FORCE MEETING JULY 10 ENDORSED RECOMMENDATION BY WEST THAT, ASSUMING GOP CAN REACH DECISION ON TIMETABLE, CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO SENDING SMALL US PRODUCTION SURVEY TEAM TO PAKISTAN, WHICH WOULD BE JOINED BY APPROPRIATE MISSION PERSONNEL IN AGRICULTURAL FIELD AND WOULD WORK WITH COUNTERPART PAK GROUP POSSESSING KNOWLEDGE OF POPPY AREAS. US GROUP SHOULD INCLUDE DEVELOPMENT ECONOMIST, SOIL AND WATER SPECIALIST, AGRONOMIST, AND PERHAPS LIVESTOCK EXPERT, AND SHOULD HAVE ONE MEMBER WHO HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN TURKEY PROGRAM. OBJECTIVE WOULD BE TO COME UP WITH JOINT REPORT CONTAINING COMPREHENSIVE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ECONOMIC UPLIFT PROGRAM IN CONJUNCTION WITH POPPY ERADICATION. PRECONDITIONS FOR DISPATCH OF TEAM SHOULD BE: (A) SELECTION OF ACCEPTABLE

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GROUP OF COUNTERPARTS AND, (B) UNDERTAKING BY GOP TO ASSEMBLE ADEQUATE DATA IN ADVANCE OF TEAM ARRIVAL. WEST OFFERED TO ASSIST IN DRAWING UP OUTLINE OF DATA REQUIRED FOR TRANSMITTAL TO PAKS. WEST PLANS TO DISCUSS THIS PROPOSAL WITH AMBASSADOR HANDLEY ON HIS RETURN.

5. ACTION REQUESTED. WE ARE MUCH IMPRESSED WITH WEST'S ACCOUNT OF EFFECT JOINT US-TURKISH TEAM HAD

IN GALVANIZING GOT INTO ACTIVE PLANNING ON
PRODUCTION SIDE. WE BELIEVE JOINT US-PAK TEAM ALONG
SAME LINES COULD HAVE SIMILAR EFFECT, OPERATING WITHIN
FRAMEWORK OF MUTUALLY AGREED TIMETABLE FOR PRODUCTION
BAN. WOULD APPRECIATE WASHINGTON'S VIEWS. IN REVIEWING
PROPOSAL DEPT. WILL WISH TO CONSIDER ALTERNATIVE
OF UN-LED PRODUCTION TEAM. ALTHOUGH GOP HAS INVITED
UN TO SEND A TEAM, OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH UN OFFICIALS HERE
AND RECENT REPORTING FROM GENEVA SUGGEST THAT PRACTICALLY
SPEAKING MAJOR UN INVOLVEMENT IN NARCOTICS PICTURE
IN PAKISTAN IS STILL IN INDEFINITE FUTURE. SANDERHOFF UNQUOTE
ROGERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: worrelsw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE146492
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NEA/RA:TGGRANT PD
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS CHASE, R W
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730711/aaaaahoz.tel
Line Count: 127
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 ISLAMABAD 5661
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: worrelsw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02-Oct-2001 by elyme>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2002 by worrelsw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NARCOTICS: COMMENTS ON WEST VISIT
TAGS: SNAR, PK
To: ANKARA GENEVA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005